

A Secret Charity in Cast-off Clothes

NEW YORK'S CLOTHING BUREAU
AND WHAT IT DOES.

An Asylum for Little Ones Is
Supported by the Receipts
from the Establishment.

New York, May 4.—In the basement of a dim old New York house occupied by an Episcopal sisterhood, the Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd, an interesting and useful business is carried on. The house itself is an asylum-school where twenty little girls are being cared for and educated; but the basement, which is known to the neighborhood as a "clothing bureau," is, on two afternoons of the week, turned into a sort of Aladdin shop for poor folks. Wednesday and Saturday are the days of sale at the clothing bureau, and, if no richer, a lady has only to rub the greasy side of a dingy penny to have real excitement occur.

The business carried on in the Good Shepherd basement is not altogether what the name given to the place would imply.

The people who go there are of all nationalities and faiths, and the stock of the

basement is an interesting experience. At 2 o'clock the place opens, visitors hurrying in immediately, and by 6, the hour for closing, most of that week's stock has been sold out. The buyers are, in the main, from the poorest quarters of town, yet are not always the really wretched.

A MIXED LOT OF CUSTOMERS.
Trimmings and ready-made garments wearing their poor finery with an air, rub elbows with Irish washerwomen and dingy Italian fruit-sellers. Sometimes a workman in overalls and with tools in hand will struggle in for a coat or a pair of shoes; for the nineteenth century old clo' shop is not alone for the weaker sex. Sometimes, again, a woman who plainly has known better days will be seen, her face veiled, her hands decoratively gloved. And of all the types that go to the clothing bureau this last is the saddest.

A sister in a close white linen cap presides as mistress. Her eyes may be insured to and aches and her ears to doleful tales, but she is ever ready with a word of sympathy or advice. The way she drops prices to suit the convenience of customers is something to make a real shopwoman weep with anguish.

These prices are an entertainment in themselves. For example, an old woman, who has been sick all winter, pays 35 cents for a decent jacket, a nice bonnet and a pair of shoes without a break. A scrub girl who supports a whole family in Italian on her earnings gets a Sunday gown in pale blue cloth for 75 cents. Cleaned old gloves, put up in neat piles, sell for 5 cents a pair. Others less good, but wearable, may be picked out of the penny bundle basket for 1 cent. A hair mattress in good condition is 40 cents. White gowns, for which there is a great demand, in men's veiling, satin and silk, all trimmed, and some of them really very charming, are put aside for wedding frocks, and sell at from 50 cents to \$3.

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EXAMINING A DANCE GOWN.

clothing bureau is as mixed as its clientele. Besides cast-off bits of household furnishings are kept, also picked vases and old toys, lame dollies and incomplete Noah's arks, an occasional mattress, a cook stove or a sewing machine.

Such things as shoes, stockings, and handkerchiefs, and odds and ends too numerous to mention, that are not in condition to be part of the legitimate stock, find their way to a sort of bargain counter, a huge basket called the "penny-bundle basket." This basket, a mine of limitless possibilities, is much patronized. And though, with but few exceptions, all the clothing in the place is second-hand, everything is clean and in good order, much of the clothing and mending being done before the forwarding of articles, which are donated by well-to-do patrons and charitable sympathizers at large.

SATISFYING FASHIONABLE FORTY.
Again the things will come in dusty and tumbled, and the sisters will do the renovating; often trimming over date and re-lining skirts, and where sleeves are of a shabby inconsistent with present styles, making them in some way to look large. Poor folks are just as fond of big sleeves as rich ones and the Good Shepherd sisters know it.

The nineteenth street clothing bureau is a two-fold charity. First, it enables poor people who cannot afford to pay store prices to buy very superior clothing at very low rates. And, secondly, the pro-

ceeds of sales go toward the support of the up-stairs school, which is further helped by small sums paid by friends or relatives of the children. One little girl, however, is kept up entirely by an endowment fund, and every cent of this fund has been raised through the sale of broken toys alone!

As the old woman in the rhyme-book truly said, every little makes a mickle, and nothing is so dispirited but that the good fairies of this curious old clothes shop can transmute it into a goose-luck.

There is no set scale of prices. The value of an article depends wholly upon the buyer's needs and length of purse. For instance, the woman who comes for a decent frock to get a situation in, never pays as much as she who demands a ball gown or any other garment occasioned merely a luxury.

Bail frocks and very dress-up ones for Sunday, are a feature of the clothing bureau. The sisters holding wisely that after a hard day's work a little entertainment and finery are good things.

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plaza, the baby girl's new frocks are of transparent textures. White dotted muslin, over tinted silk, is one material used, and in the same way very elegant and simple effects are made with French muslin.

In both cases the bodice, which is short-sleeved and low in the neck, is elaborately trimmed with huge rosettes of baby ribbon. But where the shoulder and sleeve flounces of the modish costume may have an additional edging of lace, the muslin frock is most charming when showing only the narrowest sliver of the article. The sliver comes high, but it is worth its price.

FOR DRESS-UP MOMENTS.
An afternoon toilet for a little lady from three to four years of age is of course with a skirt decoration, six inches deep of "hair" tucks, which mean tucks of microscopic narrowness, cross-stitching and herring-bone. The skirt is finished with a deep hem, and is sewed to the round baby body, the entire back and front of which is of the handwork. A pink and silk undershirt, that shows off all the intricacies of the stitching, completes this ravishing costume.

Along with stuffs long recognized as juvenile materials, dotted muslin in pale pinks and blues is now seen.

White dotted muslin washes admirably, but in color some of the little frocks made in this textile are so elaborately and curiously trimmed, that it looks as if they were never meant to make acquaintance with the laundress.

For example, a dress-up frock for a maid of six is of pale blue dotted muslin, with trimmings of black satin ribbon and black tulle. The ribbon takes the form of

Pretty Wash Stuffs For Lad and Lassie

NEW IDEAS IN SUMMER FROCKS
FOR LITTLE ONES.

General Items As to What
Small Folk Must Wear
During Hot Weather.

New wash gowns for small maids are just as charming as those for big ones.

The same exquisite flower and fruit tints distinguish them, and with but few exceptions the materials are identical. Naturally, too, in many points of design, frocks for larger girls show the influence of grown-up fashions, but cotton gowns for baby girls are as adorably baby-like as ever.

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entre-deux. Usually it follows in tone some note in the gown itself, but the dim ar-green is like black, a shade that combines harmoniously with almost anything and is especially beautiful with pale brown. Linen canvas is not used for children under seven. Frocks for girls from eight to ten have piped edges, buttoned vests and undersleeves of white mull or tucked muslin.

FOR BOYS AS WELL AS GIRLS.

Pique, white and tinted, is a good summer morning material for little maids from three to five, and is now being made up into plain skirts and double breasted reefercoats, with turn back collars and broad sailor ribbons. Handkerchiefs, white collar and cuffs, and the skirt is buttoned on to a loose comfortable underbody of unstarched mull. A design of this comfortable little model is shown here and is of pale pink with white trimming.

With the substitution of a killed skirt for the plain, it is used for small undersuits as well as gowns. The boys' suits are generally white.

Another good and simple model for baby boys is a killed skirt and sailor blouse, which, for the hottest months, will be made of brown linen and white and "sun-burnt" duck. As to boys in trousers and all their cool summer togery, they are to wear linen and pipe sailor suits, blouse and hose or short trousers, and "middy" suits, which have short jackets of blue serge trimmed with brass buttons and with lappels of white piping to fasten the trousers, which may be knee or full

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